

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nealon et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,463,659, in view of Kim, U.S. Patent No. 6,882,860. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 provides, in part, for, “[a] portable telephone set, comprising: ... key input discrimination means for discriminating whether the input of any one of said keys is valid or invalid; key input validity notification means operable when said key input discrimination means discriminates that the input of any one of said keys is valid for causing said call termination notification means to notify the user of the validity of the input of said any one of said keys ... and key input invalidity notification means operable when said key input discrimination means discriminates that the input of any one of said keys is invalid for causing said call termination notification means to notify the user of the invalidity of the input of said any one of said keys”

Independent claim 5 provides, in part, for, “[a] key operation validity/invalidity notification method for a portable telephone set ... comprising: a key input discrimination step of discriminating whether an input of any one of said keys is valid or invalid; and a key input validity/invalidity notification step of causing, when it is discriminated that the input of any one of said keys is valid, said call termination notification means to notify the user of the validity of the input of said any one of said keys ... but causing, when it is discriminated that the input of said any one of said keys is invalid, said call termination notification means to notify the user of the invalidity of the input of said any one of said keys”

Independent claim 9 provides, in part, for, “[a] computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for a portable telephone set ... said program causing a computer to execute the steps of: discriminating whether the input of any one of said keys is valid or invalid; and causing, when it is discriminated that input of any one of said keys is valid, said call termination notification means to notify the user of the validity of the input of said any one of said keys ... but

causing, when it is discriminated that the input of said any one of said keys is invalid, said call termination notification means to notify the user of the invalidity of the input of said any one of said keys”

Antecedent basis for the amendments to independent claims 1, 5, and 9 is found in the specification, for example, on page 8, lines 6-20, and on page 9, lines 5-9.

In the Examiner’s analysis supporting the rejection, the Examiner cites Fig. 3 of Nealon et al. and reference numerals 310, 311, 318, and 319 in support of the presence of key input discrimination means, (Office Action, page 3, paragraph 1, line 8, to page 4, line 2), Fig. 3 and reference numerals 310 and 311 in support of key input validity notification means, (Office Action, page 4, lines 3-9), and Fig. 3 and reference numerals 318 and 319 in support of key input invalidity notification means, (Office Action, page 4, lines 10-14). However, the happy tone at a handset, as indicated in the text in the enclosure labeled reference numeral 311, (Fig. 3), and the sad tone at a handset, as indicated in the text in the enclosure labeled reference numeral 319, (Fig. 3), are not the result of one valid or invalid key input, as claimed in independent claims 1, 5, and 9, but rather reflect the conclusion of a successful or unsuccessful registration process, (column 9, lines 9-17, 22-25). The registration process requires a user to activate a sequence of buttons at each handset unit after initiating the registration state of the base unit, (column 7, lines 60-64). The respective key presses described in the text in the enclosures labeled reference numerals 310, 318 in Fig. 3 are, thus, in no sense alone sufficient to produce the happy tone at a handset, as indicated by the text in the enclosure labeled reference numeral 311 in Fig. 3, or the sad tone at a handset, as indicated by the text in the enclosure labeled reference numeral 319 in Fig. 3.

With regard to Kim, it nowhere teaches, discloses, or suggests key input discrimination means, key input validity notification means, or key input invalidity notification means, as was admitted by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed on November 29, 2005, (page 2, paragraph 1, line 8, to page 3, line 10).

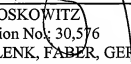
Since each of claims 2-4 and 6-8 is directly or indirectly dependent upon one of independent claims 1 and 5, each of claims 2-4 and 6-8 is allowable over Nealon et al. in view of

Kim for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claims 1 and 5 over Nealon et al. in view of Kim.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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